

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 GUATEM 04314 132016Z

61

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 DODE-00 SP-02 /035 W
----- 055993

R 131735Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO USCINCSO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7777

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 4314

FOR LTG MCAULIFFE FROM AMBASSADOR MELOY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MIL, GT

SUBJECT: SERVICE AFFILIATION OF USMILGP COMMANDER

REF: USCINCSO MSG R 072120Z AUG 75

1. IT IS MY VIEW THAT THE USMILGP COMMANDER SHOULD
CONTINUE TO BE AN ARMY OFFICER.

2. BOTH THE GUATEMALAN AIR FORCE AND THE GUATEMALAN
NAVY (WHICH IS AN REALITY A SMALL COAST GUARD) ARE
INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE ARMY OF GUATEMALA AND NOT SEPARATE
SERVICES. BOTH AIR FORCE AND NAVY REPORT TO THE ARMY
CHIEF OF STAFF. OFFICERS ARE SWITCHED BACK AND FORTH
FROM ONE BRANCH TO ANOTHER; THE CURRENT NAVY COMMANDER
IS AN ARMY GENERAL WHO HAS BEEN GIVEN THE TEMPORARY
TITLE OF REAR ADMIRAL. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF
GUATEMALAN FORCES ARE ARMY, AND THE ARMY REMAINS QUITE
INFANTRY ORIENTED. BECAUSE OF ARMY PREDOMINANCE, IT
WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO HAVE AN EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE GUATEMALAN MILITARY UNLESS WE HAVE AN ARMY
OFFICER AS MILGP COMMANDER.

MELOY

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